

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Addressed 10,000 People at Strathroy Middlesex and Lambton Electors Honor Canada's First Citizen

"My days cannot be very long now, but whether they are long or short, I shall ever treasure as the most holy thing in my life, if I may say so, the confidence which has been placed in me by men who are not of my own kith and kin. (Cheers.) But, though they were not of my own kith and kin, they know that their rights were just as sacred to me as the rights of my own people. (Cheers.) I have endeavored to maintain that principle; to demonstrate that the Liberal party is broad enough and Liberal principles large enough to give shelter and an equal share of justice and liberty to all men, no matter what their creed or origin. (Cheers.) This is the feeling which has animated me, and this is the feeling which shall animate me to the end. My life cannot be very long now, but when it comes to the end, if my eyes close upon a more united Canada than I found twenty years ago when I became the leader of the Liberal party, I shall believe that I have not lived in vain, and I shall die in peace and happiness." (Cheers)—The Premier at Strathroy.

AN UNPRECEDENTED DEMONSTRATION SATURDAY AND A REMARKABLE TRIBUTE TO LAURIER

Prime Minister Replies to Criticisms of the Opposition and Deals Scathingly With the Scandal Mongers, "The Apostles of Virtue" Now Travelling the County

BRILLIANT EXPOSITION OF FACTS MADE BY THE HON. MR. GRAHAM

Minister of Railways—Searching Investigation of the Liberal Record Shows No Wrong-doing—Liberal Party a Party of Deeds, Not Words.

The second of the Laurier meetings of the present election campaign was held at Strathroy on Saturday afternoon, and will go down in the political history of Middlesex as the greatest assemblage that ever honored a public man within the borders of the county.

The five rural ridings of Middlesex and Lambton united in paying homage to the Premier, and the five Liberal candidates made their bows to the joint meeting.

The numbers and enthusiasm which greeted Sir Wilfrid were far more than a demonstration of party loyalty. They were a tribute to a great Canadian and a great personality, and a mark of the deep admiration and affection which Laurier inspires in his fellow-countrymen of all creeds and origins, and in all parts of the Dominion.

Of the 10,000 people present, the large majority were farmers. These have driven in from far and near to extend a welcome to the leader under whose government they have enjoyed such an unexampled measure of prosperity. Conservatives joined with Liberals in their homage to Canada's first citizen. Strathroy had never had so many people within its limits at one time before. The hotels were filled to overflowing. The people began to arrive in the morning, and until long after noon a steady stream of buggies flowed upon all roads leading into the town. The weather could not have been better for an outdoor meeting. It is said electors drove in from 30 miles around Strathroy, while from London and Sarnia special trains brought many hundreds. Sir Wilfrid was never in better form, and his fit appearance and the vigorous manner in which he spoke were a source of great satisfaction to his admirers.

The Arrival. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his party, consisting of Hon. A. G. MacKay, Hon. G. P. Graham, Alex. Smith, of Toronto; T. C. Robinson, of Toronto, and a number of others, arrived in Strathroy shortly after noon. Massed at the station to meet him was a crowd of several thousand people, who burst into cheers as Sir Wilfrid appeared at the end of his car. Enthusiasm was rampant, and two bands, which had started to play patriotic airs, were drowned by the tumult. Sir Wilfrid was met by Mr. W. S. Calvert, M. P. for West Middlesex, and a committee composed of Duncan C. Ross, M. P. for North Middlesex; Messrs. English, Watterworth, Beycraft, Ferguson, Munroe, Rutherford, and Gillies from Moss; Messrs. Eby, Irwin, McEneaney, and McDonald; Messrs. Henry Johnston and John Switzer, Delaware; G. McGugan, Malcolm McGugan, D. M. McGugan, Amos Wilkins, Quincy Adamson and John Payne, Canada; J. McPherson, D. B. Harris, Dennis Ward, John Campbell, and D. Graham, Lobo; Daniel Campbell, Archie Campbell, James Henderson, Archie Parker, John Smith, Thomas Bogue and William Rutherford, Adelaide; E. Campbell, Duval Campbell, George Ross, East Williams; Neil, Graham, J. C. Elliott, M. P. P. Alex. Ralph, Glenoe; T. Warren, R. Pettit, B. Brady, T. Brady, A. Gillan, B. Moore, M. McIntyre, Metcalfe; H. Boomer, Cairngorm; V. Bates, ex-M. P. A. Smith, J. Brady, J. McGregor and A. Taylor, McGillivray, J. Collinson, E. McLaughlin, R. McMahon, A. O. Dwyer, H. Mathewson, W. Dawson, J. Mitchell, G. Tudor and Oscar Griffith from Brimley and Parkhill.

Hundreds of people pressed around the car to shake the hand of Sir Wilfrid, and for fifteen minutes he received them. His car was then taken from the station, and immediately the serving of lunch. Sir Wilfrid was again waited upon by a deputation composed

ALL TILBURY OUT TO SEE PREMIER

Cheering Thousands Meet Sir Wilfrid Upon His Arrival—Town Beautifully Decorated.

Tilbury, Sept. 21.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier was greeted here upon his arrival from London this morning by cheering thousands at the M. C. R. station. A beautifully illuminated civic address of welcome was read by Clerk A. A. Wilson, of the town council. The Premier briefly replied, expressing his pleasure at the cordial reception accorded him. After the reception, the Premier, in company with Dr. Sharp, president of the local Liberal association, and others, took in the points of interest in town. The town is decorated as it never was before, and the opinion of visitors is that Tilbury has broken the decoration record of the Province. Business places and private houses are decked with bunting and flags, and politics are forgotten in the loyal reception to the Premier.

SUPREME ODDFELLOWS

5,000 Delegates to the Grand Lodge at Denver, Col.

Denver, Col., Sept. 21.—Fully 5,000 delegates and visitors of the order are in the city at the 5th annual session of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, Independent Order of Oddfellows. The convention began its deliberations this morning in the Auditorium, and will conclude on Saturday morning. Coinciding with the Oddfellows' meeting, are the informal meetings of the Rebekahs in El Jebel Temple.

There is only one office to be filled by vote, all the other vacancies being provided for by custom and succession. This one office is that of deputy grand sire. As it is the custom that the man who serves as deputy grand sire for a year succeeds at the end of his term to that of grand sire, the highest in the order, the contest for deputy grand sire is made all the more keen.

There are seven candidates already in the lists, including R. Hill Myers, of Winnipeg, Man.

The Procession. The whole town was decorated with flags and bunting, and across the main streets hung streamers bearing such mottoes as "Five Years More of Good Government," "Welcome Canada's Greatest Nation Builder," "Welcome Laurier and Graham," and many others of a similar nature.

The procession was more than a mile in length, and was headed by a guard of honor bearing banners with Sir Wilfrid's picture and the motto, "Laurier and Victory." Following these were leading citizens and visitors in carriages, the Premier's party and bands from Glenoe, Ailsa Craig, Strathroy, Parkhill, Sarnia, Wyoming, and the Pipers' Band from London.

An enthusiastic crowd lined both Frank street and Main street, and Sir Wilfrid moved along to the accompaniment of cheering. Hundreds of ladies were gathered on steps and other points of vantage and waved a welcome with their handkerchiefs. The Premier gracefully acknowledged all the salutations.

Chairman's Address. Mr. W. D. Innes, president of the West Middlesex Reform Association, was chairman. He was proud, indeed, to welcome the foremost statesman in the Dominion of Canada, as well as his colleagues. It was a compliment to Strathroy, as well as to the west riding of Middlesex, that the Premier had thought it wise to visit them and address them. When the appeal was made to Ontario and the Dominion at large there was no doubt that the citizens of Canada would again show renewed confidence in Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his Administration; and return them by a renewed majority. (Cheers.) Mr. Innes complimented the Liberals of North Middlesex on the magnificent victory in June last, when Mr. Duncan C. Ross was returned member, after his own riding had been gerrymandered from him. (Cheers.)

When the evening of Oct. 26 comes there is no doubt that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will again have the support of Mr. W. S. Calvert, who has represented us for many years, and has represented us well," said Mr. Innes, amid cheers.

Mr. Calvert.

Mr. W. S. Calvert, the Liberal whip and member for West Middlesex, was given a great ovation when he arose to

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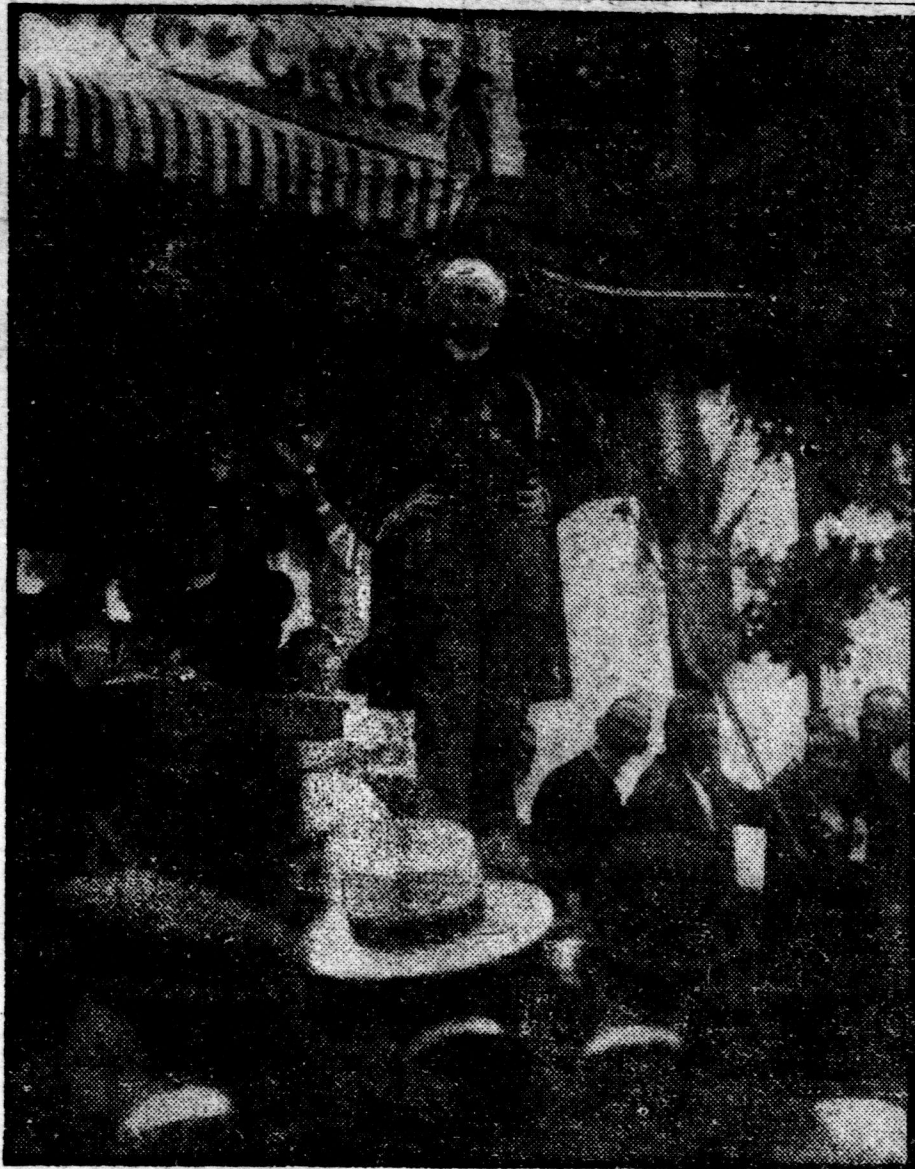


Photo by E. W. Ray, Strathroy.
SIR WILFRID LAURIER IN CHARACTERISTIC ATTITUDE.

PREMIER'S BRILLIANT ADDRESS TO AN AUDIENCE OF 10,000

On arriving at the grounds, Sir Wilfrid Laurier was given a remarkable ovation. The cheer started on the outskirts of the crowd, and in a moment the cry arose "Here he comes." That was the signal for an outburst of cheering such has seldom been heard at a demonstration in this country.

The whole crowd rose and cheered and waved their hats for minutes. All along the way to the platform the cheering continued, and he was compelled to bow repeatedly. In the stand reserved for ladies a veritable sea of linen was seen. The ladies waved their handkerchiefs and cheered for Canada's greatest son.

On reaching the platform the Premier stood for some minutes watching the happy, cheering throng. It was an ovation of which any man might be proud, and Sir Wilfrid was visibly affected by the heartiness of the greeting.

On taking his seat the bands struck up the "Maple Leaf" and also the beautiful French-Canadian song "O Canada."

A Floral Offering. A beautiful bouquet was presented to Sir Wilfrid by Miss Jean Calvert, daughter of Mr. W. S. Calvert, the Liberal whip. Hon. A. G. MacKay received another from Miss Clare Ross, and Miss Mary Cuddy made another presentation to Hon. Geo. P. Graham.

Amongst those on the platform were Hon. Geo. P. Graham, minister of railways and canals; Hon. A. G. MacKay, leader of the Ontario Opposition; W. S. Calvert, M. P. for West Middlesex; P. F. Pardee, M. P. West Lambton; Senator Thos. Coffey, London; W. T. Innes, president West Middlesex Liberal Association; Dr. Routledge, ex-M. P. P., East Middlesex; H. G. Petty, M. P. for North Middlesex; Dr. C. O. Fairbank, of Petrolia, and others.

Sir Wilfrid's Address. The Premier's address was as follows: "Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen—It is certainly with a full heart that I tender you my most sincere thanks for the grand manner in which you have received me, in view of the fact that I am a comparative stranger among you. But this is perhaps not

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TWO TOWNS OF WISCONSIN WIPED OUT BY FOREST FIRES

Fresh Outbreak Along Line of Soo Railway Completely Destroys Two Towns, Places Rhinelander in Peril and Renders Four Thousand Persons Homeless.

Rhinelander, Wis., Sept. 21.—The towns of Gagen and Woodboro' were destroyed by forest fires yesterday, and as a result nearly four thousand persons are homeless. Men, women and children fought valiantly to save their homes, but without avail, and at last were forced to flee for their lives. Women carrying children in their arms and men and boys with packs on their backs, ran toward Rhinelander, many falling prostrate in the heat, only to be helped on by the stronger refugees.

Nearly all of those burned out at Gagen reached Rhinelander and are cared for. But few of the Woodboro' people are here, and it is not known what has become of all of them.

A Fresh Fire. The fire is a fresh one, and not a continuation of the fires which did so much damage last week. When the blaze started the wind was from the west, and it was feared Rhinelander with its homes for 7,000 persons was doomed also, but a change in the direction of the wind probably has saved the city.

On the Soo Railway. The towns of Gagen and Woodboro' are on the Soo Railway. Reports from the refugees who came to this city say nothing is left of Gagen. Citizens have decided to ask the governor to order out the state militia to assist in fighting the flames, which, because of the dry condition of the woods, threaten to destroy the forests. It is feared the wind may again shift, and the mayor and chief of police believe the danger to Rhinelander is not yet over.

Hundreds of men have gone out from the city to fight the flames. A report received from those returning say they have made little progress against the fire.

Ottawa Derail Much Too Short Shown by Accident to Car There

An Object Lesson for the City Engineer and Company To Note.

An object lesson for the city of London, for Engineer Graydon and for the Street Railway Company, took place at the Ottawa avenue crossing of the Pere Marquette Saturday evening at 9:15, when car No. 11 jumped the derail and ran over the railway tracks.

Owing to the company's stubbornness and the laxity of the city officials the derail was placed but twenty-five feet west of the crossing, whereas the law calls for seventy-five feet, which is no more than is necessary as was proven by the run-off. The derail and semaphores were installed when the cars were running but one way, but since that time the company has been compelled to operate both ways in accordance with the bylaw. The cars formerly ran west on Ottawa avenue and the derail west of the tracks was placed seventy-five feet off.

The car in trouble Saturday evening approached at a very rapid rate, and the motorman apparently forgetting that there was a derail increased his speed. When he struck the derail the car was thrown about eighteen inches to the north. It then paralleled the street railway tracks for about sixty feet before coming to a standstill. Luckily it was running at a speed sufficient to carry it over the railroad, for had a train happened along there would have been a much more serious result.

The uselessness of a twenty-five foot throwoff was clearly demonstrated, for had the car been derailed while running slow, it would have been stranded on the railroad tracks in the path of all trains. The danger of such an accident is added to materially, as the lights are put out as soon as the car leaves the rail and breaks the connection.

There were about fifteen passengers all of whom were more or less shaken up. The wrecker was called and replaced the car after about twenty minutes had elapsed. That did not end the trouble, however, for the trolley pole had been twisted in such a manner that it could not be kept in its place. The car was stranded several times before Adelaide street was reached, but the wrecking crew returned and fixed matters up. Had the car been stranded on the tracks with a load of passengers the result would have been most serious, as many trains run in and out of the city daily over the line. There is also much shunting done at the point in question.

Alleged Assault. James Ryder, of Biddulph, today gave himself up to High Constable Hughes on a charge of assault, occasioning bodily harm to James Casey, a neighbor, and was bailed to appear for a hearing. Ryder, it is alleged, attacked Casey with a club recently. This morning he appeared at the court house and gave himself up.

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—FINE
FORECASTS.

Toronto, Sept. 21-8 a.m.
Light to moderate winds; fine today and on Tuesday; not much change in temperature.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations.	8 a.m.	Mid.	Weather
Calgary	44	38	Fair
Winnipeg	54	48	Clear
Port Arthur	52	52	Fair
Parkville	52	54	Fair
Toronto	53	52	Clear
Ottawa	56	46	Fair
Montreal	54	52	Clear
Quebec	59	46	Cloudy
Father Point	48	40	Cloudy

The first column in the above table records the temperature at 8 o'clock this morning, and the second column records the minimum temperatures during the 24 hours previous.

Local Temperatures. The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at the local observatory for the 24 hours ended at 8 p.m. yesterday were: Highest, 83°; lowest, 53°.

WEATHER NOTES. A few light showers occurred during the night in Eastern Quebec, but the weather in Canada generally remains fine, with little prospect of any widespread rainfall at present.



Photo by E. W. Ray, Strathroy.
A SECTION OF THE CROWD WHICH HEARD SIR WILFRID LAURIER AT STRATHROY ON SATURDAY.